

FAYETTEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

1.19 – WEARING MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

The Board of Directors is mindful of the evolving imminent need for measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic or other health concerns. Given new evidence of the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people and the guidance for K-12 Schools. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Board is adopting this emergency policy for all students, employees and visitors of Fayetteville Public Schools.

The Board of Directors will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and its variants in the Fayetteville Public School District and will consider any additional relevant guidance including, but not limited to, that from CDC, the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Health and will evaluate this policy on or before the regularly scheduled Board meeting of October of 2021, and at any time thereafter as determined by the Board.

STUDENTS

Until further action of the Board of Directors, all students in kindergarten through the 12th grade shall be required to ~~may~~ wear a mask or face covering (a) while attending school or a school function in any school building, indoor facility or other indoor area of a school campus, and (b) when riding in school-provided transportation. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the student. Students shall wear masks and face coverings at all times while indoors except for the following:

- Students may remove masks and face coverings for eating or drinking;
- Students may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher or school administrator;
- Students may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher or school administrator;
- Students may be exempted from this policy by the school principal due to a documented medical condition of the student; and
- Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Special Services or the Director of Student Services.

In accordance with the Arkansas Department of Education 2021-2022 Covid Guidance for Schools, the Superintendent will review and apply applicable guidance including that of the Arkansas Department of Health for school-related activities and event protocols as well as the guidance of the Arkansas Activities Association and will thereby determine and communicate the appropriate mask use for such school-related activities and events.

Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering as set forth by this policy shall be required to leave the school campus consistent with Board Policy 5.25 on student dress.

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Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering on a school bus shall be subject to Board Policy 5.19 on student conduct while riding a bus.

EMPLOYEES

Until further action of the Board, all employees of Fayetteville Public Schools shall be required to~~may~~ wear a mask or face covering (a) while working or attending a school function in any school building, indoor facility or other indoor area of a school campus; and (b) when driving or riding in school-provided transportation. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee. Employees shall wear masks and face coverings at all times when indoors except for the following:

- Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking;
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place;
- Employees may be exempted from this policy by the school principal or the Superintendent of Schools due to a documented medical condition of the employee; and
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs as determined by school administration, in which case the employee will utilize appropriate social distancing measures.

Employees who refuse to wear a mask or face covering as set forth in this policy shall be subject to Board Policy 4119 and state laws regarding the evaluation of employee contracts.

VISITORS

Until further action of the Board, all visitors to Fayetteville Public Schools shall be required to~~may~~ wear a mask or face covering (a) while present in any school building, indoor facility or other indoor area of a school campus, and (b) when riding in school-provided transportation. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the visitor.

Date Adopted: 7-16-20

Revised: 4-22-21

Revised: 5-27-21

Revised: 8-9-21